

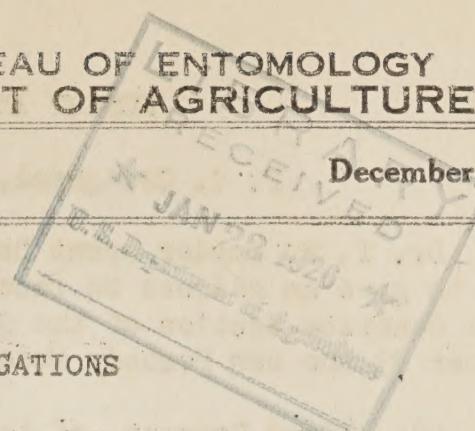
Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

16
MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Number 140

December, 1925



FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Associate Chief of Bureau, in Charge

Prof. Kota Monzen, of the Imperial College of Agriculture and Forestry at Morioka, Japan, recently spent several days studying aphids with Doctor Baker and Doctor Mason. Prof. Monzen is especially interested in the genus *Melaphis*. This genus is principally an oriental one, and includes the species which forms the Chinese gall of commerce.

Oliver I. Snapp, in charge of the Bureau's Peach Insect Laboratory at Fort Valley, Ga., visited the Orlando, Fla., Laboratory on December 3 and 4 for a conference with W. W. Yothers on oil emulsions, and to observe work under way with these insecticides. Over three-fourths of the peach acreage in the Georgia Peach Belt is being treated with lubricating-oil emulsion this winter. C. H. Alden and H. S. Swingle, of the Peach Insect Laboratory, are conducting large-scale field and laboratory experiments with these materials.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. H. Larrimer, Entomologist, in Charge

Kenneth W. Babcock has returned from Europe, where he has spent nearly two years conducting a study of the European corn borer under European conditions and assisting in the collection of parasitic material. Mr. Babcock visited Washington on December 3 for conference with Bureau officials regarding the corn borer situation in Europe.

D. J. Caffrey, who has been conducting experiments on the European corn borer in the Lake region in the vicinity of Oak Harbor, Ohio, for the last three months, has returned to his headquarters at Arlington, Mass.

C. C. Hill visited Washington, D. C., December 4, for conference with Bureau officials.

While on a vacation trip, R. A. Vickery, stationed at Arlington, Mass., called at the Washington office on December 21.

The address of L. H. Worthley, in charge of corn borer control, will until further notice be Room 50, No. 12 S. Market Street, Boston, Mass.

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Entomologist, in Charge

Dr. T. E. Snyder spent December 28 to 30 in New Haven, Conn., where he gave an address on races or subspecies in *Reticulitermes*, at the Genetics Section of the Society of American Zoologists. On December 29 the new Peabody Museum was dedicated.

Dr. Alfred Emerson, of the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Harold Kirby, Jr., of Yale University, had informal discussions with Dr. Snyder on the biology of termites and the correlation of intestinal protozoa with the host termites. Preliminary results indicate that a study of the intestinal protozoa of certain termites will make practicable the specific determination of certain termites, even from the immature stages of those termites. This method will be of great help in the determination of fragmentary material, and in ascertaining whether closely related species of termites are distinct or not. There is also an indication of correlation in the phylogeny of the protozoa and that of their host termites. If this correlation exists it will confirm doubts now held by American students as to the classification of some of the lower termites. Data on intestinal protozoa will also be extremely valuable in studying geographical distribution and relationship.

Dr. L. R. Cleveland, now of Harvard University, and Prof. S. F. Light, of the University of California, contributed to these sessions by correspondence. It is greatly regretted that they could not also attend the meeting.

The collection of tropical woods at the Yale Forest School was inspected by those in attendance at this meeting.

William Middleton spent three days of early December in Philadelphia, Pa., and vicinity, reviewing control work on the box leaf miner already performed and planning some future work. The miner is a pest of considerable importance to boxwood, and a nursery firm in Philadelphia is especially anxious to obtain an economical and satisfactory control of the insect that will be applicable during most, if not all, of the year. In cooperation with Floyd Smith, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture, who is stationed at Willow Grove, Pa., some fumigation work in tents has been started and some indoor or fumigation-box work is planned if a suitable box can be found or constructed in the immediate neighborhood.

A review of the box leaf miner situation about Philadelphia, and more extensive observations in Washington, indicate that it is the most injurious of boxwood insects and that if boxwood is to continue to occupy the important place it does in permanent decorative plantings, some sure and simple means of control must be found. From observations thus far made it seems that the miner can be controlled by spraying, but it also appears difficult to reach a point in these operations where they can be laid aside. A further difficulty is that much of this spraying work must be done during the late spring, when other nursery and gardening duties press for time.

STORED-PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

E. A. Back, Entomologist, in Charge

The American Warehousemen's Association held its midwinter Convention at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., December 1 to 4. At the request of the Household Goods Division Dr. Back gave a talk on general storage problems, particularly along the line of the relationship between furniture construction and insect attack in storage.

Earl L. Allured, president of the Manufacturing Confectioner Publishing Company, of Chicago, was a visitor at this Division in the past month. He wished among other things to arrange for a round-table discussion of pests troublesome to the confectionery industry.

At the request of a rice milling and packing concern, Dr. Back was present at a commercial fumigation of sacked rice in New York early in December. It is interesting to note that business firms, once contacts have been made with them, are glad to have the Bureau send representatives as disinterested observers who will report dependable results. These contacts are also very useful to the Department in advancing our general information on storage conditions.

In December a serious outbreak of the dermestid Anthrenus semi-niveus Casey was brought to the attention of the Bureau. In 1916 Colonel Casey described this insect as new, from specimens collected in an apartment hotel on Connecticut Avenue, Washington. Since the original description appeared this species has never been recorded except on two occasions late in 1925. In one instance the insect had destroyed the brushes in a leather case containing a shoe blackening outfit, and in another it had attacked the curled hair stuffing of a piece of upholstered furniture. One of these instances of damage occurred in the building which was occupied by Colonel Casey; the other in a building about half a mile distant.

In December, at the request of the War Department, Dr. Back visited the Army Supply Base at Brooklyn, N. Y., to examine present storage conditions and to recommend improved methods of insect control. In a letter dated December 2, 1925, the Adjutant General wrote the Commanding Officer of the New York General Intermediate Depot, New York City: "In view of the particular problem at present in reference to the disposition of certain material on the basis of its continuing deterioration and the fact that moth infestation is an ever-present problem in our Depots, it appears desirable to have an expert opinion on development of systems of prevention of this evil. The methods being used are different from those now generally in vogue and the War Department feels that progress along this line is essential if we are adequately to protect our reserves of materials."

SOUTHERN FIELD-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. L. Webb, Associate Entomologist, Acting in Charge.

B. R. Coad recently visited various points in Texas and Arizona on business relating to the Bureau work on the Thurberia weevil, and the work of the Federal Horticultural Board on the pink bollworm. In the course of the month he also visited Washington.

A. C. Morgan visited New York on business relating to the vacuum method of fumigation for control of the tobacco beetle, stopping at Washington for a few days on the return trip to his official station at Clarksville, Tenn.

F. C. Bishopp, of the Dallas, Tex., station, visited Washington in December to consult with various bureau officials.

A. J. Chapman, of the Tallulah laboratory, has been transferred to Tucson, Ariz., where he will be engaged in Thurberia weevil investigations.

K. P. Ewing and A. C. Johnson have been transferred from the Federal Horticultural Board to the permanent force of the Bureau, their new duties to date from January 1, 1926, and will be assigned to investigations of the cotton hopper.

H. E. Wallace and J. U. Gilmore, who were transferred to the Federal Horticultural Board, to assist in scouting for the pink bollworm during the active season, have returned to their respective stations to resume their regular work, Mr. Wallace to Mound, La., and Mr. Gilmore to Clarksville, Tenn.

JAPANESE BEETLE INVESTIGATIONS

Loren B. Smith, Entomologist, in Charge

H. Bennett Johnston, Assistant Entomologist of the Sudan Government, was a visitor at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory in the latter part of the month.

J. L. King, who is carrying on graduate studies at Ohio State University, recently spent several days at Riverton consulting with reference to parasite problems.

The area of the quarantine on account of the Japanese beetle has been extended from 5,122 to 6,047 square miles. This represents the smallest increase in the quarantine area, in proportion to the size of the area as a whole, since the insect was first discovered.

T. R. Gardner, with headquarters at Yokohama, Japan, is spending some little time in December at Shanghai, China, in consultation with H. A. Jaynes, who is investigating Japanese beetle parasites in the Yangtze Valley, China.

The first shipment of parasites of *Popillia* to come from northern India was received in December. This consisted of a shipment of cocoons of an Indian species of the genus *Tiphia*. Mr. Clausen reports the outlook for *Popillia* parasites as very promising in the hill region of northern India.

Dr. John Glassford, chief chemist of McCormick & Company, Inc., Baltimore, Md., spent a day at the laboratory at Riverton in consultation concerning insecticides.

TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Entomologist, in Charge.

In the early part of December the main Mexican bean beetle laboratory was transferred from Birmingham, Ala., to Columbus, Ohio, in order that the insect might be studied throughout the year under the more northern conditions. Neale F. Howard is in charge; his Columbus address is 2520 N. High St., or Box 116, Sta. "B." Wallace Colman, formerly of the Birmingham laboratory, was also transferred to Columbus. L. W. Brannon has been designated to act in charge of the Birmingham laboratory, now a substation of the one at Columbus.

Rodney Cecil has been transferred from Geneva, N. Y., to Columbus, Ohio. He attended the Kansas City meetings of the Association of Economic Entomologists.

Walter Carter, in charge of the sugar-beet leafhopper work, at Twin Falls, Idaho, was designated to represent this division at the Kansas City meetings of the Association of Economic Entomologists.

S. H. Rountree, for the past 7 1/2 years connected with the Florida sweet-potato weevil work, has resigned to enter commercial fields.

L. H. Curet, temporary field assistant in Alabama, has resigned, as also has Torbert Slack, collaborator, engaged in the sweet-potato weevil work in Louisiana.

TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Entomologist, in Charge

Prof. J. D. Hood, of Rochester University, spent the Christmas vacation week at the Division of Insects, studying the Museum Collection of Thysanoptera.

Harold S. Peters, a postgraduate student of the Ohio State University, spent several days of his Christmas vacation at the Museum, identifying his large collection of Ohio Mallophaga.

Junior Entomologist Raymond G. Shannon has resigned to accept a position with the Argentina government. His work will be the study of the mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects of Argentina. Negotiations for his appointment were effected through the Rockefeller International Health Board, and the work will be performed in cooperation with that Board. Mr. Shannon, accompanied by his wife, will sail from New York January 30.

G. H. H. Tate, of New York, was at the Museum for several days of the last week in December, making photographs of certain moths of the subfamily Hadeninae.

A. B. Gahan attended the meetings of the National Societies recently held at Kansas City.

BEE CULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

James I. Hambleton, Apiculturist, in Charge

James I. Hambleton attended the meeting of the Illinois State Beekeepers' Association at Springfield on December 8.

Dr. A. P. Sturtevant spoke before the Ontario Beekeepers' Association at Toronto on December 2 and 3. Over 400 were in attendance at one of these meetings.

E. L. Sechrist was in New York City on December 18 to investigate the needs of comb honey grading. Among the establishments visited was the Herchel Jones Marketing Service. R. B. Willson, Extension Specialist in Apiculture for New York State, was present to go over the situation with Mr. Sechrist.

J. E. Eckert, formerly Associate Professor of Zoology and Entomology at North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, has accepted a position in the Bee Culture Laboratory as Associate Apiculturist.

Recent visitors at the Bee Culture Laboratory included Dr. S. Soudek, in Charge of Beekeeping at the Zoological Institute of the College of Agriculture and Forestry, Bruno, Czechoslovakia; E. R. Root, President of the A. I. Root Co.; R. B. Willson, Extension Specialist in Apiculture for New York State; and Geo. H. Rea, Extension Apiarist in Pennsylvania.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

NEW BOOKS

Bräun, Max, and Siefert, Otto.

Die tierischen Parasiten des Menschen. . . Teil 1. Ed. 6, rev. Leipzig, Verlag von Kurt Kabitzsch, 1925. 608 pp., illus. Literaturverzeichnis, pp. 489-993.

Broek, M. van den, and Schenk, P. J. S. . . Ziekten en beschadigingen der tuinbougewassen. Groningen, J. B. Walters, 1925. Ed. 4. 2 vols., illus. At head of title: Nederlandsche Land-en Tuinbouwbibliotheek.

Coleoptera; études sur les insectes coléoptères, [quarterly], vol. 1, fasc. 1, Paris, 1925.

Cooper, William, and Nephews, ltd.

Diseases and pests affecting sheep and goats in South Africa, with methods of treatment. 4th ed. Berkhamsted, Eng., William Cooper and Nephews, ltd., (no date) 120 pp.

Deegener, P.

. . . Lebensgewohnheiten der insekten... Leipzig, Verlag von Quelle und Meyer, 1925. 135 pp. Literatur, p. 124.

Handschuh, August.

Technik der königinnenzucht. Stuttgart, Eugen Ulmer, 1923. 54 pp., 4 plates. Literaturverzeichnis, pp. 52-54.

Herrick, G. W.

Manual of injurious insects. New York, Henry Holt & Company, [c. 1925.] 489 pp., illus.

Hill Museum, Witley, Surrey, England.

Bulletin; a magazine of lepidopterology. vol. 1, Nos. 1-4, London, John Bale, sons, and Danielsson, Ltd., 1921-1924. Edited by J. J. Joicey and G. Talbot.

Juillet, Armand, and Diacomo, H.

Essai de destruction du pou de corps ou de vêtements "Pediculus corporis" de Geer par les emulsions savanneuses d'oléoresine de pyréthre de Dalmatie. Paris, 1925. (France, Office national des matières premières végétales pour la droguerie et la parfumerie. Travau. Notice No. 20.)

Kaupp, B. F.

Animal parasites and parasitic diseases. Ed. 4, rev. Chicago, Alexander Eger, 1925. 250 pp., illus.

Kirkpatrick, T. W.

. . . The mosquitoes of Egypt. Cairo, Government press, 1925. 224 pp., illus., plates A-G, I-XXIV, 2 maps. At head of title: Egyptian government. Anti-malarial Commission.

Kuwayama, Satoru, Kuribayshi, Kazue and Oshima, Kishiro.

. . . Insect pests and fungous diseases of sugar beet. . . Koton, Sapporo, Published by the Station, 1925. (Hokkaido Agr. Expt. Station, Koton, Sapporo, Japan, Bul. 36.)

Miller, W. C.

Some parasites of British sheep with some suggestions for their eradication and control. . . Glasgow, Robert Young & Co., ltd., 1925. 106 pp., incl., front., illus., plates.

Okamoto, Hanjiro.

The insect fauna of Quelpart Island (Saishiu-to). Suigen, Corea, Japan, 1924. 233 pp. plates, map. (Bulletin of the Agricultural experiment station, Government-General of Chosen, vol. 1, No. 2.)

Rivas Moreno.

La plaga de langosta; como debe combatirse . . . Zaragoza, Tipografia Gambon, 1924. 139 pp., illus. (Academia de Ciencias de Zaragoza Memoria 1.)

Shinoda, Osami.

On the biochemistry of the wild silk moth, *Dictyoploca japonica* Moore. 1, Chemical development in the growth of the wild silk moth. (Memoirs of the College of Science, Kyoto Imperial University, Series A, vol. IX, No. 3, 1925, pp. 225-235.)

Stuckey, H. P., and Kyle, E. J.

Pecan growing. . . N. Y., The Macmillan company, 1925. 233 pp., illus. Insects attacking the pecan, pp. 161-181. Pecan diseases and spraying outfits, pp. 182-197.

Vayssiére, Paul.

. . . Au sujet des pucerons ennemis du cotonnier, du mil et du sorghe en A. O. F. . . Paris, Emile Larose, 1925. 32 pp., illus. (Extrait de l'Agronomie coloniale, bulletin mensuel de l'Institut national d'agronomie coloniale, Avril, 1925, n° 88.)